

a) Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, lines 22 to 35 as set forth below:

5 A special mechanical tool, e.g., a finger key probe 160 may be inserted through an opening 101 to push the releasing nose 135 to release the pin 150 from the three balls 120. When the releasing nose 130 is pushed, the rotating-releasing cylinder 135 begins to rotate and the releasing nose 130 is engaged to a sloped elevation pushing-base 158 supported on the bottom cover 110 that pushes the rotating-releasing cylinder 135 to a higher position further away from the bottom cover 110. 10 The rotating-releasing cylinder ~~125~~ 135 also push the ball-holder 125 to raise to a higher position while the inner cup 145 is held down by the outer cylinder 140 to remain at the same position. As the ball holder 125 reaches a higher position within the inner cup 145, the large space at the top portion of the inner cup 145 now allows more space surrounding the balls 120. Without the pressing force from the side wall of the inner cup 145 the balls begin to fall away from the pin 150 thus allows the pin to be released. 15

b) Please amend the first paragraph on Page 6 as set forth below:

20 Fig. 2 is a top perspective view of the bottom cover 110 that include a hole 152 to allow the pin 150 to enter into the inner holding cup 145 such that the pin 150 is held by three balls as these balls are squeezed by the narrower surround side wall of the inner holding cup 145. Fig. 3 shows the unlocking mechanism by applying a magnetic unlocking means, e.g. a magnet 170 that is placed on top of the top cover 105. The magnet 170 asserting a pulling force on the spring and the ball holder 125 to move upward while the outer cup 140 engaged the inner cup 145 to keep the inner cup 145 at a fixed position. As the ball holder 125 is pulled up to an upper portion of the inner holding cup 145, the three balls have open space to move outward from the ball holder 124 thus fall away from the pin 150. The pin 150 is released and the security tag can be unlocked by pulling the pin ~~out~~ out from the security tag 100. 25 30

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c) Please amend paragraph start from Page 6 line 15 to Page 8, line 4 as set forth below:

5 According to Figs. 1-3 and above descriptions, this invention
discloses a security tag that includes a tag body and an attaching means
for attaching the tag body to an article. The security tag further includes a
locking means for releasably preventing the attaching means from being
removed from the article wherein the locking means is provided for
mechanically or magnetically released the attaching means for detaching
10 the tag body from the article. In a preferred embodiment, the locking
means further includes a plurality of balls for tightly holding to the
attaching means for releasably preventing the attaching means from being
removed from the article. In a preferred embodiment, the locking means
further includes a mechanical unlocking means for applying a mechanical
15 force to release the balls from the attaching means whereby the attaching
means may be released and detached from the tag body. In a preferred
embodiment, the locking means further includes a magnetic unlocking
means for applying a mechanical force to release the balls from the
attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and
20 detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the locking
means further includes a ball tightening and loosening means for
tightening the balls to the attaching means. And, the locking means
further includes a mechanical unlocking means for applying a mechanical
force to the ball tightening and loosening means for loosening the balls
25 from the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released
and detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the locking
means further includes a magnetic unlocking means for applying a
mechanical force to release the balls from the attaching means whereby
the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body. In
30 a preferred embodiment, the ball tightening and loosening means further
includes a ball surrounding surface defining a restrict space and an
expanded space for forcing the balls into the restrict space for tightening

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the balls to the attaching means. And, the mechanical unlocking means further applying a mechanical force to move the balls to the expanded space of the ball tightening and loosening means for loosening the balls from the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the magnetic unlocking means further applying a magnetic force to move the balls to the expanded space of the ball tightening and loosening means for loosening the balls from the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the ball tightening and loosening means further includes ball holding cup having a plurality of holes for each of the balls surrounded by the ball surrounding surface wherein the locking means pressing the ball holding cup for forcing the balls into the restrict space for tightening the balls to the attaching means. And, the mechanical unlocking means further applying a mechanical force to move the ball holding cup together with the balls to the expanded space of the ball tightening and loosening means for loosening the balls from the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the magnetic unlocking means further applying a magnetic force to move the ball holding cup together with the balls to the expanded space of the ball tightening and loosening means for loosening the balls from the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body. ~~In a pre~~ In a preferred embodiment, the security tag further includes a mechanical probe finger for pushing and applying a mechanical force onto the locking means to release the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body. In another preferred embodiment, the security tag further includes a magnet for applying a magnetic force onto the locking means to release the attaching means whereby the attaching means may be released and detached from the tag body.

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